

GIRL COPS BLASTED IN ARMED RAID — 1 DEAD Page





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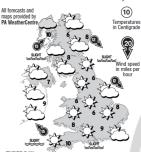
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INFO STATION

TODAY: A frosty start. Freezing fog will clear to leave much of England and Wales with a sunny day. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny periods, but high cloud will move in, making the sunshine more hazy.

OUTLOOK: After another frosty start, it will be dry and bright tomorrow. Northern and western Scotland will have more cloud. The fine but cold weather will continue on Monday.



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STAR NEWS TO YOUR MOBILE

NEWSPAPERS



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PM defiant as quit calls get louder

DEFIANT Tony Blair last night refused to quit despite growing calls in

Labour ranks for him to go.
In a major speech he insisted he was "restless" to get on with his job and push through radical reforms, particularly in schools.

reforms, particularly in schools. His defiance came as a quarter of Labour chiefs urged him to quit Downing Street within a year. A BBC survey of local Labour Party chairmen found one in four want Mr



Blair to resign within a year and a third think he's "no longer an asset". But Mr Blair showed his determination to stay in a key policy speech on education, promising to help poor children do better at school.

Speaking in his Sedgefield constituency in county Durham, the PM spoke of his anger that 17,000 young-

sters leave school every year with no

dualifications.

He said: "While that remains I can not rest, I will not until we do all in our power to change that failure."

Choice

Mr Blair. 52, vowed to sweep away
the "deadening uniformity" of the
comprehensive schools system.
He added: "I want a school system
in which middle class and lower
income families' children mix happily together and where there are sufficient numbers of good
schools to make a parental
choice a reality."
But his school plans
could be scuppered by
further rebellons by fedup Labour backbenchers.
Mr Blair was given
muted support by Gordon
Brown yesterday.
And he warned rebels he
would not be a "soft touch"
if he comes to power.
Mr Blair is now 12-1 with
Ladbrokes to quit before
the end of the year.

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cor hall@dailyetar.co.uk





DETERMINED: Blair on schools

DAVID Cameron's Tory leadership hopes were boosted yesterday when four more MPs pledged their support after his "Plnk Pussy" TV grilling by Jeremy Paxman. Bookies slashed the odds on the 39-year-old nabbing the Conservativ crown to 1-25 after he survived the presenter's booze and drugs

■ by MACER HALL

interrogation on BBC2's Newsnight. Interviewer Paxman, 55, harangued Mr Cameron about his links with the drinks industry, testing his knowledge of Pink Pussy and Slippery Nipple cocktails in a clash over binge drinking policy.

LOTTO DAILY PLAY

FRIDAY, NOV 18

SATURDAY LOTTO

NOVEMBER 12 12 13 25 3D 45 47 42

8 11 13 16 17 21 27 One ticket matched all 7 balls for the £30.000 jackpo

WEDNESDAY LOTTO

4922314121

One ticket won the £2.7 million jackpot. Extra: 8, 9, 22, 34, 38, 48 T'Ball: 7, 8, 16, 25, 33 (T'b 14) No Extra winners of £2.7m jacknot. No T'Ball winners

FRIDAY, NOV 18

17, 18, 25, 34, 48 Lucky Star Numbers 2, 3

REFUGEE and asylum groups have received more than £75million in National Lottery cash under Labour.
The Government says

just 1% of Lotto money goes to such causes. But Tory MP Andrew Rosindell blasted: "Far too much is wasted on obscure causes."

MIRACLE mum Abigail Witchalls returned home last night with her week-old baby. Abigail, 26, was pregnant with son Dominic when she was left paralysed after being stabbed in the neck in April. She is now at the family home in Little Bookham, Surrev. which husband

Surrey, which husband Benoit, 27, has adapted.

STAR CELEBRITY



Kate 'n' Pete's greatest hits

NEFRY KINS

■ by IAIN BURCHELL

GORGEOUS Kate Price turned chartbuster last night to give a bumper boos

Kate delighted millions of fans by teaming up with husband Peter Andre to sing live as part of the Beeb's charity marathon. And they may even release a pop single together.

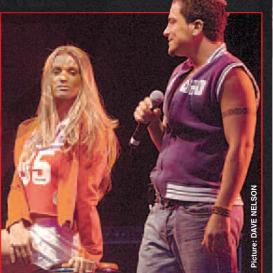
The model, aka Jordan, proved she and 32 year-old Peter are well in tune by duetting

Sizzling performances from Madonna, 47, ex-soap babes Nikki Sanderson, 21, and Amy Nuttali, 23, and a host of other stars set the show on target to raise a record £35million

But 27-year-old Kate's fans will be relieved

to know she hasn't given up the day job. She showed off her famous curves to model these bikinis – and looked a million herself.

iain.burchell@dailystar.co.uk





IT WAS a case of "I'm a celebrity birth-day boy get me a beer" as show co-host Ant McPartlin went on the razzle

Ant McPartlin went on the razzie yesterday.

He took his girlfriend Lisa Armstrong and TV pal Declan Donnelly out for a drink to celebrate his 30th birthday.

Ant and Dec are busy preparing for the show to kick off Down Under tomorrow. But they took time out to mark Ant's big day.

Dec, 30 and Lisa, 29, joined the birthday boy on a trip to Byron Bay on the Gold Coast for a beer and a spot of lunch. And you can bet Bushtucker Trial-style grub was NOT on the menu.



BEER WE GO: Ant and Lisa head off to celebrate

Sid's got his eye

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STEAMY: Sid



TEASE: Kimberley



with soap babe Kimberley Davies out in the jungle.
Both stars will head off into the Aussie outback today for TV's I'm A Celebrity.

outback today for TV's I'm A Celebrity.
But cheeky Sid has confessed that seeing sexy ex-Neighbours beauty Kimberley in her bikini will get him all steamed up in the rainforest, despite the spiders and snakes.

"I do fancy Kimberley who doesn't?" said Sid, 33, who played grease monkey Ricky Butcher in East-Enders.

"I know she is married

Enders.
"I know she is married and I respect that.
"But there is nothing to stop me looking. You can look and not touch!"

Nude

Blonde Kimberley, 32 – who played Annalise Hartman in the Aussie show – is happy to give Sid and her army of male fans an eyeful in the Outback.

She revealed she has packed some eye-popping bikinis for I'm A Celeb, which starts tomorrow.

But Kimberley won't be going totally starkers.

"I have turned down offers to pose nude in the past because I was worried what my gran or num would think," she said.

"So you won't see maked in the jungle."

After hearing about Sid's firty intentions, she teased: "Well if he remembers me from Neighbours that was a few years ago.

"I have had two children since. And I don't think we'll be in a very glamorous situation."

However Kimberley says she will miss her surgeon

orous situation."
However Kimberley says
she will miss her surgeon
hubby Jason and family –
and she admits she'll
certainly miss the nookie. Mad About Telly

special: Pages 8&9

THE I'm A Celebrity contestants are allowed to take one luxury item each into Here's what they've all plumped for . . . David Dickinson: Aqua di Palma aftershave to make sure he smells sweet in the Elaine Lordan:

PILLOW TALK: Sheree with her special

designed himself.

Sheree Murphy: A
pillow for her to
cuddle. It's printed with
pictures of her children
to stop her missing
them

them. Carol Thatcher: A folding chair so she's

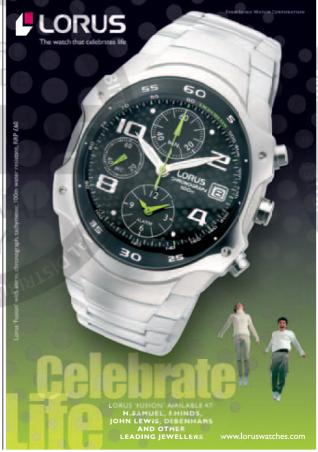
chosen a camping chair.
Kimberley Davies:
Lip gloss.
Antony Costa: An airbed to sleep on.
Jilly Goolden: A comfy cushion.
Jenny Frost: Leave-in hair conditioner hair conditioner.

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Partmaster

£100k-a-week skipper storms out in bust-up

■ by JOHN MAHONEY

ROY KEANE stormed out of Manchester United yesterday when they tried to strip him of the captain's armband.

The Irish hardman, who was fiercely proud of skippering the side and had been with United for 12 years, told pals

proud of skippering the side and had been with United for 12 years, told pals he'd been treated "worse than dirt". He arrived yesterday morning with his lawyer and agent Michael Kennedy to meet chief executive David Gill, 48, in the hope of thrashing out his future. But Gill dropped the bombshell that no new contract extension was on offer and they wanted him out as captain. No-nonsense Keano, 34, then declared he was walking out immediately on his £100,000-a week contract. He was officially said to have left by mutual consent, but a source revealed: "Roy is completely gutted. "From being respected and part of the inner circle – even touted as a future manager – he's been booted where it hurts." Matters came to a head on Thursday evening, when he had a bust-up with manager Sir Alex Ferguson's No2, Carlos Queiroz, 52, over tactics.

That came after Keane watched United's reserves beat West Bromwich Albion 4:1 at Hyde United's Ewen Fields ground.

Vibes

A United colleague said: "Just talking to people there, Roy picked up the vibes that all was not well and his position at the club was in doubt.

all was not well and his position at the club was in doubt.
"He left the match wondering just what was in store for him when he met the chief exec the following morning. Now we know what the game plan was." It seems the club made up their minds some time ago about how they were going to handle him."

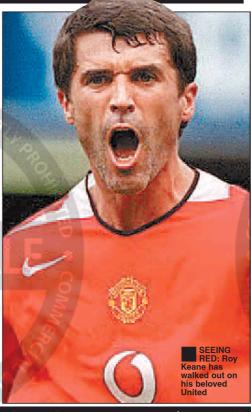
Keano played. 480 games during his career at United, scoring 51 goals. But he hasn't always seen eye to eye with the club's bosses or his team-mates. He savaged his fellow players in an interview for the club's uniterview for the club's at 1 defeat at Middlesbrough last month. Furious Sir Alex, 63, ordered it to be shelved. But details leaked out and Fergie played it to the

and Fergie played it to the first team squad which-made dad-of-five Keane's position untenable.

The player lives with vife Theresa, 33, in a wife Theresa, 33, in a £1.4million mansion in Hale, Cheshire.

john.mahoney@dailystar.co.uk

KEANO SPECIAL: SEE STARSPORT



Ron in clear over 'rape'



■ by JAMES WICKHAM





TARGET: The travel agents where the raid took place



KILLED: Yvonne



KILLED: Alison

A ROOKIE policewoman was shot dead and another seriously wounded yesterday as they tried to stop an armed robbery.

The two unarmed officers were called to a city centre travel agent's shop to investigate reports of a raid.

Witnesses said they were confronted

witnesses said they were confronted by gunmen, who opened fire at point-blank range into their chests before fleeing.

Injured

Onlookers desperately tried to save the life of the most seriously injured officer, in her mid-thirties, but she is thought to have died instantly.

The other policewoman was rushed to hospital, where she was last night undergoing emergency treatment for serious gunshot wounds.

Up to 100 police were drafted in to hunt for the gunmen as the area surrounding the shooting in Morley

■ by JERRY LAWTON

Street, Bradford, West Yorks, was sealed off. Armed officers were guarding an alleyway near a taxi office. It is believed the policewoman who died was a "probationer" who had only been in the force a few months. The West Yorkshire force is still reeling from the murder of Pc Paul Broadhurst, 34, by US gangster David Bleber, 38, in Leeds on Boxing Day 2003.

Day 2003.
The two women Pcs were called to the Universal Express shop at 3.25pm

the Universal Express shop at 3.25pm yesterday.
Property developer Amer Khan, 24, who was nearby when the shooting happened, said: "A lad told me three Jamaican guys robbed the shop. When they were confronted by two policewomen, they shot them." I saw people trying to give one officer the kiss of life. It's shocking."
Another witness said: "Why were two unarmed policewomen sent to deal with an armed robbery? And we

heard they were not even fully qualified police."
Last night Home Secretary Charles Clarke said he was "shocked and saddened" by the tagedy.
Only three other women police officers have died in the line of duty in the past 20 years.
Yomne Fletcher, 25, was shot by a sniper hiding in the Libyan Embassy in London as she tried to control demonstrators during a blood 11-day siege in April, 1984. Her murderer has never been brought to justice.

Stabbed

Nina MacKay, 25, was stabbed to death while trying to arrest a suspect in East London in October 1997. Her killer Magdi Elgizouli, 30, was sent to a mental hospital.

And Pc Alison Armitage, 29, was run down by a stolen car in Hollinwood, near Oldham, four years ago. Car thief Thomas Whaley, 19, of Oldham, was jailed for eight years for manslaughter.

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STAR **ABOUT TELLY**

SATURDAY 5.30pm: Xtra Factor Xcess All Areas (ITV2) **6.30pm:** Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1)

(BBC1) .00pm: The X Factor

(ITV1)
8.10pm: Xtra Factor
(ITV2)
9.10pm: X Factor –
the results (ITV1)
9.10pm: Strictly
Come Dancing –
results (BBC1)
9.40pm: Xtra Factor
(ITV2)

Reality TV 9.00pm: I'm A Celebrity Get N What's on when

10.10pm: I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here! Burrell Goes

Back (ITV2)
SUNDAY
10.55am: The X
Factor & Results
Show (rpt) (ITV1)

9.00pm: I'm A
Celebrity Get Me Out
Of Here! (ITV1)
11.10pm: I'm A
Celebrity Get Me
Out Of Here Now!

(ITV2)
MONDAY
12.10am: I'm A
Celebrity Get Me Out
Of Here Live! (ITV2)
12.35am: I'm A 12.35am: I'm À
Celebrity Get Me Out
Of Here Live! (ITV1)
2.30am: I'm A
Celebrity Get Me
Out Of Here Live!
(ITV2)

Strictly Come ncing, both of which ot out their sixth ntestants, or the new A Celebrity. Celebrity.
Celebrity.
nd betting on the
hows is set to
new heights, with
es predicting a
ping £5 million to

vagered. Ladbrokes' Robin Hutchison said: "It be the biggest kend of reality TV



HERE'S the song that every X Factor fan is talking about – and we've got all the words to it's Chico Time so you can sing along with Chico, 34. Sometimes it feels so good, I can't remember bad; My inner clock is ticking and the back beat drives me mad. It's erotic, exotic, hypnotic that's for sure; Put a smile on your face and take you to a place you never been before.

(Get up) let it all hang out; (Jump back) gonna scream and shout (Hey!) Don't you wanna get out of line; Everybody say "What time is it?" – It's Chico Time!

Chorus Well you can get deliri-ous, if you take life too seri-ous. It's Chico time; It's Chico time! Well you can get deliri-ous, if you take life too seri-ous. It's Chico time!

Get up in the song, You can't do nothing wrong; In front of the mirror like there's a party going on. If you want it you got it, go get it baby can't you see: Don't fantasise, just realise you're happy to be free.

Shake it naughty come on baby bump my body. If you don't dig reality then baby just lay it on me. It's Chico time. Go Chico go Chico go. Go Chico go Chico go.



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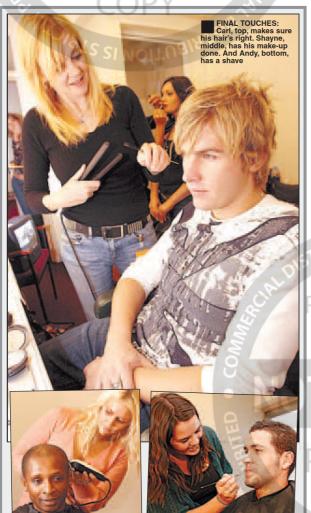


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Asked for his opinion on both his fellow Judges he said: "They've both got pretry big egos and we love a good row."

Louis then started on Robbie Williams. And he couldn't disguise his glee after his band Westlife knocked Robbie off the top of the album charts.

He said: "I'm delighted about that. Robbie is just a jumped up karaoke singer." I have no idea why he's been so successful."

He then hit out at his former group Boyzone, saying only "Stephen Gately and Ronan Keating were good singers".

During the last series Louis rarely had a bad word to say – but he has spoken up this time.

Louis said: "I don't think I'm rude to people, not at all. I'm being realistic."

■ by MARK JEFFERIES

done but I've come out of my shell since last year. "Simon chose me to be on the programme because I love music. He doesn't! He doesn't even buy CDs."

OPTION OF FREE DELIVERY



SAVAGED: Robbie, left, has been attacked by Louis, above



From Page One

From Page One
in the face of the fans' conspiracy.
"On the online chatrooms all the
talk is about plotting to get the
Conways out and making sure no
one votes for the girls," said a show
source last night.

"They're a dead cert to be in the
bottom two and we don't think the
judges will go against the public
again so they look likely to go."
Millions of viewers were shocked
last week when judge Louis Walsh

backed the four Irish singers to stay

backed the four Irish singers to stay ahead of sexy Maria Lawson, 30.
"The girls might have got saved by Louis last time around but we don't think he'll make the same mistake again," said the source.
"The girls have got so much pressure on them to improve and they are really struggling."

Bookies Ladbrokes said they had been "knocked over" by punters trying to back the girls for the chop.
They made them 4-6 for the axe

and spokesman Robin Hutchison said: "Even the Irish mafia won't be able to save them this time."
Sisters Sharon, 28, Sinead, 23, Marie, 21, and Laura, 18, have been struggling to defend themselves against all the criticism this week.
Their dad Kieran said: "The girls have been left very hurt.
"Tve read some of the comments left on websites and they are nothing short of racist."

mark.jelferies@dailystar.co.uk



RANGE OF PHONES

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STAR SHOWBIZ





Wayne's girl lands part in soap

COLEEN McLoughlin is heading for the bright lights of TV soapland.

For we can reveal that a major telly firm is hoping to sign up the blonde babe to star in Hollyoaks.

to star in Hollyoaks.

And bosses at Mersey TV
are hoping that the 19-yearold girlfriend of England star
Wayne Rooney, 20, will
take up their offer.

A TV insider said: "They
all think Coleen is absolutely

all think Coleen is absolutely scrumptious.
"She is everything they could wish for and more. She is a lovely, talented person who has a very high profile."
She was certainly on top form when we met her at A Night With The Stars ball in aid of Childline at St George's Hall in Liverpool.
She revealed: "I've been really busy recently, but I'd love to have a crack at acting. And I do love Hollyoaks."
She also insisted she isn't



COL-LARED: Our Amy and Leigh party with dazzling Coleen

ready to tie the knot with Wayne – because she's

ready to the knot with Wayne – because she's simply "too young".

She added: "There always seems to be a pressure to marry and it's just not us. I'm just not ready."

Desire

Coleen was sitting with pals, including hunky Hollyoaks actor **Guy** Burnet, 21, aka Craig Dean.

He said: "She would be absolutely fantastic (in Hollyoaks). The ratings would rocket."
Coleen revealed her desire to star on screen earlier this year, when she said: "What people don't know is I've got 11 GCSEs including an A* in performing arts, so I'd be able to hold my own."
And we've no doubt the Liverpudlian lovely would.

Liverpudlian lovely would





LIZ McLarnon did her best to turn up the heat when she performed at the Childline event in Liverpool in a bright red frock.
The ex-Atomic Kitten, 23, entertained the crowd before mingling among guests and confessing she was "freezing cold" while nipping to the nearest loo. A feeling we could sympathise well with...

the Britis



Hot Alex so cool

GORGEOUS blonde Alex Curran

GORGEOUS blonde Alex Curran left folks baffled with her bizarre behaviour at the afterparty for the charify event in Liverpool.
England ace Steven Gerrard's 23-year-old girlfriend let her hair down at the glitzy Newz Bar & Cafe but refused to comment on reports she is two months pregnant with her second child.
One guest said: "She was dancing with her mates and having a laugh but when asked about whether or not she was expecting, she was far from happy."
Earlier in the evening she proved

from happy."
Earlier in the evening she proved prepared when her shorts slipped down... quickly rescuing her modesty with a safety pin.
Every Girl Guide, eh Alex...

HAVE YOU GOT SOME JUICY GOSSI OR

IN London: Kirsten Dunst wearing shades at Heathrow, Terminal 1, Sadie Frost drinking water whilst walking along elsize Lane and sexy Cold Feet star James Nesbitt on Hampstead High Street. Rhys Ifans at The Orwell pub, Islingtion, Hay Winstone in the Grosvenor House mobile at Victoria Station.

Kim's bridal frown

WE think **Rod Stewart**'s girl **Kimberly** is having a tough

time.

Just when we hear the 26-year-old
model has announced her engagement
to TV star Talan Torriero, we're now
told her future mother-in-law has put
a dampener on things.
According to reports she is far from
happy. An insider said: "The couple

are getting their paperwork together to get married in Vegas this weekend.
"They want to do it right away but Talan's mother is hysterically crying." Kimberly showed off her five-carat diamond engagement ring to pals Paris, 24, and Nicky Hilton, 22, when she and Torriero, 19, star of reality show Laguna Beach, went to a Beverly Hills party. We say go for gold girl!





JASON Statham pays people

JASON Statham pays people to stamp on his back.
The hardman actor, 33, loves massages and hates therapists tending to him too gently.
He revealed: "I can't stand a soft soothing massage. I like someone to hurt me."
The star also revealed he is

looking forward to finding love, after finishing a long-term relationship with **Kelly Brook**, 25. He said: "The world is full of great people and I just wait for the magic to arrive. When the magic to arrive when the magi the magic to arrive. When you're not looking, it finds you."

Could you "not look" in our direction, please?

har from stu

PHARRELL Williams wants a

PHARRELL Williams wants a bookworm for a girlfriend.
The 32-year-old rapper and super-producer says he's after a woman with intellect.
Can I Have It Like That star Pharrell says: "I like a girl who has high expectations in life and is interested in different things.

I love girls who are avid readers. That's really attractive to me.
"They'd have to be smart and pretty too. In that order."

pretty too. In that order."
The singer also admitted that
he likes girls... with red toes.
He explains: "Red is very sexy
on a girl's toes."
Is there anything else mate?

REESE Witherspoon feels like a rodent. he actress, 29, says ing for her two children I making movies is lik gg in a hamster whee le said: "The most ortant thing is my dren and them being by and healthy." Ir hearts bleed...

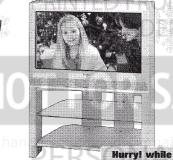
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pare us fumbles SA n the jun

HE producers of I'm A Celebrity
Get Me Out Of Here! are obviously
trying to make it like Celebrity
Love Island with Bushtucker Trials.
They've admitted they want the contestants to
cop off with each other.
In previous series lorder

cop on with each other.

In previous series, Jordan and Peter Andre got ogether in full fake tan-o-vision and who can forget Darren Day's relationship with Tara Palmer-Foundary. together in the second parten Day's relationship with second and is Nobody. Though Tara wishes she could and is nioneering laser lobotomy treat-

Tomkinson?

Nobody. Though Tara wishes she could and is considering having ploneering laser lobotomy treatment to help blot out the memories.

Putting aside the moral issues of trying to pair up people such as Sheree Murphy and Antony Costa who have long-term relationships back home (though if you are married to a footballer I guess you should never really look at relationships as long-term) there is still a problem here.

Gruesome twosomes. Yep. For every potential glamorous coupling there's the possibility of one that crosses the bounds of visual taste and deceney. I'm sure the British public would be more than happy to watch Sid Owen and Jenny Frost getting jigey with it but what about David Dickinson playing tongue backer with

ADORE Robbie Williams. Always have. Ever since he won a Golden Joystick on Gamesmaster in on Gamesmaster in 1990-something, he's been a good guy in my book.

We've crossed paths many times over the years and he's never been less than a

years and ne's never been less than a superstar. But he REALLY let himself down on the Take That documentary this week. Why couldn't he just have turned up to that reunion? As it was, he looked like he was trying to prove he was too big, busy and downright important for it. Why? Doesn't he realise that, in the big music war against Gary Barlow, he won? If he had turned

If he had turned up, embraced them all and buried the hatchet, he would have come out of it looking like a god. Instead, he looked like a silly wee boy who's still flicking the V at the teacher. A great shame.

playing tongue hockey with Elaine Lordan?

inockey with Elaine Lordan? Or Jimmy Osmond and Jilly Goolden going at it like rutting stags? Cannon & Ball with Carol Thatcher? Rock on Tommy! And off. And up. And down.

I know that, officially, Cannon & Ball aren't going in but I haven't given up all hope of a late entry. There are only four blokes in the starting line-up, after all.

Can I suggest the producers put bromide in the teajust in case?

Sewhere on Planet Space Cadets. Not just because Johnny Vaughan has already had 57 million chances at presenting a big TV show, has cocked up 56,999,999 of them and now has a track record that makes Eddie the Eagle has a track record that makes Eddie the Eagle Edwards look like the Real Madrid team of the 1960s.

I also cannot see how it will work.

Will work.

Don't get me wrong.

There would be nothing
more cruelly hilarious
than watching some

knucklehead thinking he's knucklenead thinking he's going into space only to find out he hasn't even left the Home Counties.

Surely, though, they have to cotton on at some point that it's a fake?

that it's a fake?
They may have kitted out a disused UK airbase with Russian signs, teabags. DVDs and light bulbs but there are bound to be mistakes. From Ben Hur's

wristwatch-wearing charioteer in 1959 to this year's Mr & Mrs Smith movie featuring Los Angeles streetsigns in New York, there's always SOMETHING they forget about.

Surely a dead giveawa will be the fact that Russia is in such a sorry state just now that they don't actual by have any light bulbs.

Nah. I smell a rat here. I

suspect that the aim is to play a joke on us, the viewers, and the whole thing will emerge as some spoof to prove that we will watch any kind of reality TV. We will find out that it was never a "real" television show in the same way that Johnny Vaughan was never a "real" presenter. Then again, Touch The Truck was real...

CONGRATULATIONS to Andrew Stimpson who has apparently cured himself of HIV.

who has apparently cured himself of HIV. It's been in all the papers – which might one day be looked back upon as the worst possible thing that could have happened to the cause of AIDS prevention.

This gay is a medical aberration. Sure, they might run tests and discover a cure by finding out what in his DNA made him

beat this killer disease. Or they may not. He might just be a fluke.

In the meantime, millions of people worldwide are flinging away their condoms with reckless abandon because they think it's safe to go bareback now.

Don't. It isn't. And remember you're not just taking a risk with your own life. You're taking a risk with someone else's.

X-rated lights

ROOF there is no God ... Louis Walsh joined Westlife to switch on London's Oxford Street Christmas lights this week. There was no malfunction resulting in massive electric shock to all concerned.

maintention resulting in massive electric snock to all concerned.

Did you know, by the way, that the X Factor's Conway Sisters have had an album out already?

SCOTS

MPs were debating opening hours and managed to cock it up big time. They agreed to 24-hour opening for pubs but only 10am until 10pm for off-licences. At one point, they had to suspend business while they searched for missing paperwork. With this in mind, can I suggest they restrict pub opening hours for mknown singers. If established bands are allowed in, can we have

debating opening hours and managed to cock it up big time. They agreed to 24-hour opening for pubs but only 10am until 10pm for off-licences. At one point, they had to suspend business while they searched for missing paperwork. With this in mind, can I suggest they restrict pub opening hours for MPs a tad more?

allowed in, can we have Black Sabbath next time?

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(S T CS D Case



Coffee keeps me full of beans

ON'T vou just hate it when ON'T you just hate it when this happens? ... You give up caffeine because you're told it's making you hyper and then US researchers come up with the theory that decaf coffee could raise levels of "bad" cholesterol, which can make your arteries. which can make your arteries tighter than a fat man's trousers. I say "Don't YOU just hate it" because I haven't actually given up caffeine

caffeine.
And never will.
I've got kids for God's sake.
Caffeine is as essential a part of
parenting as finding a good school
and making sure they support the
right football team. In fact, I refuse

to drink anything that DOESN'T to drink anything that DOESN'T include caffeine in much the same way as I refuse to eat anything that DOESN'T include a dead animal. There is one thing I drink that doesn't involve caffeine and that's alcohol.

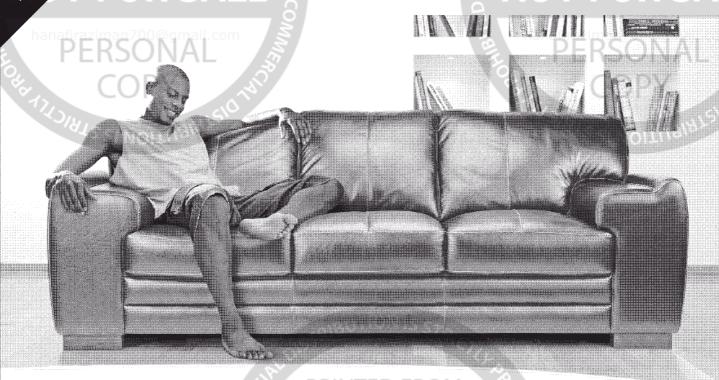
And, even then, I'm partial to a Vodka Red Bull. So a note to all

those smug, hemp-wearing Tamsins who bang on about how healthy they feel after giving up

coffee:
You know that tense, angry feeling you get when you read those statistics? We coffee those statistics? We coffee drinkers get that every day by the time of our third cup!

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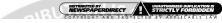
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OON

Santa's pals a 'health hazard'

CHILDREN have been banned from patting Santa's reindeer – because bureauprats reckon they're a health hazard.

Civic bigwigs said a festive procession could go ahead only if first-aiders provided antiseptic handwipes wherever the reindeer went.

They also insisted on a dedicated team of sleigh stewards to keep youngsters away from the creatures.

Organisers of the Festival Of Christmas parade in Beverley, East Yorks, said there was no need for a fuss.

The 30,000-strong crowd expected to line the route would be behind metal barriers – and wouldn't get within 8ft of Santa's sleigh.

But council chiefs insisted on the safety plan in case children accidentally brushed past the unhygienic reindeer.

Burden

Burden

Now organisers have reluctantly agreed to the moves – and have hired a team of stewards armed with handwipes.

Last night Beverley and Holderness MP Graham Stuart blasted it as "officialdom gone mad".

He said: "The Festival Of Christmas committee have nearly given up because of the burden of regulations. "It got down to the point where I believe it was suggested they should have portable hand-washing facilities following any reindeer around in case any child touched one."

But a senior council source blamed the regula-

NE MAI

"compensation culture".

He said: "If a child did he said: "If a child did from the polick up germs from one of the reindeer and we had not acted on the potential risk then we would be wide open for legal action."

Santas picketed Parliament yesterday in protest at "politically correct" has on traditional Christmas celebrations.

The Santas, from the Lakeside shopping centre grotto in Essex, waved posters saying "Santas For Justice" and "Ho, Ho, Ho, Not No, No."

Jerylawton @dailystar.co.uk

■ by GARY NICKS

TORCHES have been banned from a festive TORCH-LIGHT procession because of health and safety fears.

Marchers won't even be able to carry candles ... In case people with long hair catch fire.

Instead, killjoy councillors in the Cornish harbour town of Looe have blown 2350 on 500 plastic glowsticks for the December 15 event.

Mayor Ron Overd sighed: "These days, people are suing at the drop of a hat. What we are talking about is naked flames, hot wax, long hair, cars with wax sprayed on them. We decided it would be prudent to use some other form of lighting."

School

nt to use some other form of lighting."
But Looe resident John Andrews, 55, stormed: "How can you possibly have a torchlight procession with glowsticks? We'll be a laughing stock."

Water

And retired teacher Ann Richards, 60, fumed: "I just can't believe it.

can't believe it.
"The traditional procession was one of the reasons my husband and I moved to Looe.
"People were so careful with the torches and there were barrels of water all along the route.
"This ban is quite simply bureaucracy gone completely mad."





COKE shame model Kate Moss set tongues wagging that she'd switched to needles – but only for a tattoo. She was snapped leaving a tattoo and piercing parlour in New York with daughter Lila Grace, three. Kate, 31, has been in the Big Apple getting her life back on track after a spell in an Arizona rehab clinic and we showed yesterday how she has bounced back to land a slot posing topless in the 2006 Pirelli calendar.

Meanwhile, her on-off boyfriend Pete Doherty, 26, has had the face of a man accused of selling snaps of Kate snorting cocaine blanked out of his new video.











TOUR SONG: Matt Lucas

Dafydd's tip top

by MAZ PARTASIDES
MINCING Little Britiain
star Dafydd is set to bag
the Christmas No.1 spot
with his show-stopping
single from their
nationwide tour
The only gay in the
village finishes his live
set with a hilarious pop
opera song.
And paid-up fans are
begging creators Matt
Lucas, 31, and David
Walliams, 33, to release it
as a novelty record in time
for the festive season.
Spread betting experts
Bethilo reckon the single
would sell 100,000 copies
in its first week.

Huge

A spokesman said: "The show is absolutely huge at the moment and a Christmas single is sure to rocket to No.1."
If it does it will follow in the footsteps of other Chrimbo novelty hits such as Mr Blobby in 1993 and kids' single Bob The Builder in 2000.
LITTLE Britain was big news for viewers on Thursday night – when a massive 9.5million tuned in for the first show in the programme's third series.

m for the first show in the programme's third series. When the second series started last year, the open-ing show pulled in 4.5m. A BBC spokesman said: "It's an incredible return."



Flu drug warning

THE drug being stockpiled to protect against bird flu could be linked to deaths and

agamst bird flu could be linked to deaths and madness in children. Tamiflu – the brand name of oseltamiviris – is being investigated by the US Food and Drug Administration.

Some reports claim 12 Japanese children aged one to 16 died after taking the drug and that two boys, aged 12 and 13, threw themselves out of upstairs windows. It's claimed Tamiflu can also cause severe skin reactions.

The Roche company, who sell the drug, say that the side-effects are rare given the millions of people who have taken it.

BESTIE BACK

GEORGE Best was rushed back into intensive care yesterday suffering from "a new and severe infection". The football legend was "very

Poorly" last night.

His son Calum, 24, and pal and former Manchester United team-mate Denis Law, 65, were at his bedside.

Best, 59, was hooked up to a dialysis machine to save his failing kidneys and

■ by GARY NICKS

is also on oxygen. He'd been making steady progress after fighting back from the brink of death two weeks ago.

Setback

But worried doctors last night revealed that his condition has deterio-rated again. Best had been recovering on a ward at the private Cromwell Hospital in

west London after responding well to

west London after responding well treatment.

But he was transferred back into intensive care yesterday morning after suffering a "big setback".

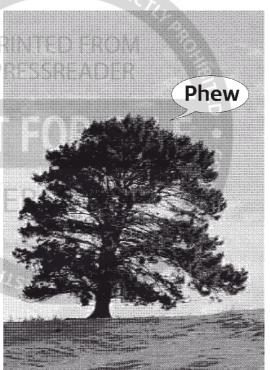
Prof Roger Williams, who performed Best's liver transplant three years ago, said: "He's got a new and severe infection, he's on dialysis and he's very poorly at the moment."







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Garter perfect

■ by NADINE LINGE

THE saucy garter Charlotte Church flaunted in a hot video has got a new use – as a sexy accessory for mobile phones.

Phone operator 3 and luxury lingerie label Agent Provocateur have launched the limited-edition silk garter in time to become a must-have Christmas prezzie.

It has a special pocket for women's phones to keep them safe during the boozy party season, after research showed thousands of women lose their mobile on drunken nights out. The garter is just the solution for booze-loving Charlotte, 19, who's often pictured stumbling out of clubs after downing vodka and champagne.

Lace

Agent Provocateur boss Serena Rees said: "I'm sure the garters will be popular gifts with men who are tired of carrying their girlfriend's phone around in their pockets on nights out. "The garter is a perfect example of fashion meeting functionality."

In the video for her raunchy number Call My Name, gorgeous Charlotte is seen modelling the black garter with pink lace-trimmed pocket for her phone.

The sizzling prome then sees curvy Charlotte.



SEXY: But not a good gift

Undies gift rapped

BRIT gals love wearing sexy undies – but don't want them as presents. Scanties from lovers, hubbies or boyfriends topped a Xmas irritation list for 90% of women in a survey of 20 to 45-year-olds. The online Internet Woman's Forum said:

"It's irritating for a woman to receive underwear as a present from a man. She knows he's really bought a present for himself!"

And 20% of the 3,500 women interviewed complained their blokes made no effort to wear sexy male undies.

HOT LINE: Charlotte wears the

garter in her sexy video

blokes made no effort to wear sexy male undies.

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